



Agriculture Plan

Fighting for our region's farmers and producers

The agriculture industry is the backbone of our region and has driven our economy for generations. The 24th Congressional District is one of the top agricultural regions in the Northeast with the 24th District being the largest dairy district in New York, Wayne County being the largest apple producing county outside of Washington State, Wyoming County being one of the top maple syrup producing regions in the nation, and the Finger Lakes region being home to countless vineyards, orchards, and other specialty crops. These enterprises are the engines of our Upstate and Western New York economy that provide jobs to local workers and fill our grocery stores and schools with nutritious local products.

In recent years, this indispensable industry has suffered in the face of unfair foreign trade practices and hostile state and federal policies. Farms and agricultural producers are essential to the success of our communities and providing needed jobs and opportunities. We must do all we can to enact commonsense agricultural policies to allow our farmers and rural communities to compete in the global marketplace.

I am backing a multipronged approach that advances pro-farmer agriculture policies and supports programs that allow our food industry to continue as the engine of our local economy. My plan will unleash the potential of our rural communities, push back against hostile foreign interference in our agriculture sector, and give farmers and producers the certainty and opportunities they need to succeed.

Supporting our Specialty Crops

- **Introduced H.R. 5091, the Fairness in Vineyard Data Act:** This bipartisan legislation will require the federal government to perform a nationwide grape statistics survey and increase its annual grape data location from the top two largest grape producing states to the top five states, including New York. The data from these surveys will allow our great Finger Lakes vineyards and wineries to adapt to industry changes and trends.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 3512, the SAP Act of 2023:** This bipartisan legislation will ensure the USDA consults with maple syrup producers when directing research and educational priorities under the Acer Access and Development Plan. New York is the second largest maple syrup producing state in the nation and it is important these producers have a voice in the federal programs that affect them.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 3127, the SHOPP Act:** This bipartisan legislation will require USDA programs to incentivize the consumption of frozen fruits and vegetables among SNAP recipients. Frozen fruits and vegetables are convenient and often more nutritious than fresh produce, but for years they have been unfairly sidelined in the SNAP program. This

crucial update will benefit both SNAP recipients and our Upstate and Western New York produce farmers.

- **Cosponsored H.R. 3867, the Spotted Lanternfly Research and Development Act:** Since its discovery in Pennsylvania in 2014, the invasive spotted lanternfly has decimated crops across the state, resulting in over \$300 million in damages annually. It is vital we act to ensure this pest does not spread further into New York, risking our grape and apple crops. In response, this bipartisan bill will require the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the USDA to list the spotted lanternfly as a high-priority research and extension initiative, helping us develop methods to control this pest.
- As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over our nation's trade policy, I will always support increased foreign market access for our nation's farmers and agricultural producers. Over the years, policies such as the unfair Indian tariffs on American apples and Canadian caps on American dairy imports have unfairly punished our farmers and agricultural economy. It is vital for American farmers to have a seat at the table in any upcoming trade deals and that these unfair barriers are ended.

Supporting New York Dairy

- **Cosponsored H.R. 1756, the Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act of 2023:** In the 2018 Farm Bill, the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system was reformed to set the fluid milk price as the average of the price for milk used in cheese and the price for milk used in butter and dried form. This change has not worked as intended and has resulted in dairy farms losing millions in revenue. This bipartisan legislation will return fluid milk pricing to the previous "higher of" instead of "average of" and require a report on dairy producer costs to ensure our farmers are fairly compensated for their milk.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 4125, the Dairy Farm Resiliency Act:** This bipartisan legislation will update the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program to ensure its covered levels of milk production are updated every five years. The DMC program is a voluntary government backed insurance program for farmers, ensuring dairy farmers have enough revenue to pay feed and production expenses when milk prices go down. However, even though there has been considerable consolidation in the dairy industry since 2014, the coverage levels have not been adjusted to compensate. This legislation will change that, allowing these farmers to cover more of their milk production.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act:** This bipartisan legislation will allow unflavored and flavored whole milk to be offered in school cafeterias. Whole milk is a healthy source of key nutrients such as calcium, potassium, and vitamin D. This will help support our Upstate dairy farms and give schools the flexibility needed to serve children nutritious food.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 1462, the DAIRY PRIDE Act:** This bipartisan legislation will require all food products labeled with dairy terminology such as milk, yogurt, and cheese

to have come from a hoofed animal. Misleading plant-based imitation dairy products have significantly different nutritional profiles, and it is essential the FDA issue guidance to prevent any confusion for consumers. It is important Americans can easily understand the nutritional benefit from dairy provided by our Upstate dairy farmers and producers.

Protecting US Farmland from Foreign Interests

- **Cosponsored H.R. 809, the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act:** This legislation will protect national security, food security, and economic security through banning the purchase of public or private U.S. agricultural land by foreign nationals associated with the People's Republic of China. It will also ban such entities from participating in any USDA programs and receiving taxpayer dollars. Current laws put full onus on the purchasing parties to self-report their purchases with fines rarely levied for misreporting or not reporting. It is time we close this loophole and ensure our nation has a secure and dependable food supply.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 683, the Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security Act of 2023:** This bipartisan legislation will safeguard our nation's food security, banning any entity or person primarily based in China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea from buying U.S. agricultural land and agricultural companies. It will also add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to ensure the needs of agricultural security are fully represented when reviewing foreign investments in our country. It is vital we do not allow these hostile nations to use these purchases to undermine our food supply or gain access to sensitive military operations.

Your views are always important to me. Please write to me on my website or call my office at 202-225-3665 with feedback, questions, or concerns.